

From: Jesse Becker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have a number of concerns about the proposed settlement between the US Department of Justice, and the Microsoft Corporation.

- 1) The (proposed) settlement is not sufficiently strong to prevent Microsoft from pursuing similar activities in the future. The proposed restrictions apply to narrow ranges of activity, most of which can be circumvented easily by changing product names (as the settlement specifies product names instead of classes of products), or developing new products that perform similar purposes.
- 2) There is no clear enforcement mechanism for this settlement. While there is the creation of an oversight committee, it has no obvious powers to give punishment for any breaches of the terms of the settlement.
- 3) The group responsible for implementing many of the points listed in the settlement, namely OEMs, are tied directly to Microsoft for their revenue by selling Microsoft Products. This, I believe, does not constitute an unbiased group for carrying out the points of the settlement.
- 4) Finally, Microsoft has used its monopoly standing to directly hurt some consumers, myself included, by forcing them to purchase their products from OEM companies. In my case specifically, I have purchased two systems from Dell Computers, and have had to pay approximately \$100 in each case (a total of about \$200) for a copy of Windows 98 and Windows Millenium that I did not wish to buy.

Thank you,

Jesse Becker

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